Preparing for NMCI take over – The Journey Begins

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This is the second of a four-part series of articles designed to inform individuals of the upcoming transition to the Navy Marine Corps Intranet environment.

The EDS-led Navy Marine Corps Intranet team has arrived aboard MCRD Parris Island, and has started to prepare the process to deliver Information Technology services here.

The NMCI is an enterprise-wide managed service to provide the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps with secure, universal access to voice, video and data information exchange. NMCI will improve the quality of IT services and reduce the Department of the Navy's annual costs for those services.

The transition to NMCI is a three-phase process to move users from the current environment, or legacy environment, to the NMCI.

The three phases of the transition are transition planning, site preparation and site transition.

Transition Planning

The first phase begins when the EDS/NMCI team receives a task order for NMCI services from a site, generally several months before the planned move to the NMCI. This provides the team with the information it needs to complete initial workforce development and planning activities based on the total site order.

The initial site-level NMCI transition plan is developed and staff members are trained and put in place to move the site toward Assumption of Responsibility, the date when responsibility for operating the current "as is" legacy environment shifts from the government and its local contractors to the EDS/NMCI team.

EDS/NMCI validation teams arrive on site to collect data and coordinate future transition activities. The validation teams assess information technology and warehouse facilities, security accreditation, legacy applications, and Wide Area Network provisioning. The teams also begin to make detailed assessments of the Base Area Network/Local Area Network and the existing desktop and server environments. Collection of additional information on security hardware begins in order to finalize the NMCI infrastructure design. The transition planning phase for a site ends at AOR. Parris Island's AOR occurred on May 19.

Legacy Applications

Legacy applications have been one of the most critical elements of the NMCI transition thus far. A legacy application is software pre-dating the NMCI and not part of the current NMCI software offering. Each site must compile a list of its legacy applications and "rationalize" each application to determine if it will be maintained or eliminated.

Applications selected to remain in use are sent to the EDS/NMCI team for testing to ensure the application will operate properly within the NMCI environment, will not affect the integrity of the infrastructure, and conforms to DOD and DON security requirements.

"Generally, commercial business environments have fewer than 100 legacy applications," said Navy NMCI Director Rear Adm. Charles Munns. "In the early stages of the NMCI transition, we discovered more than 100,000 [applications]."

"Obviously, that's not a manageable number of applications, but the good news is the EDS/NMCI methodology for migrating these applications has helped us pare that number down to less than 30,000," said Rear Adm. Munns. "Our eventual goal is to have no more than 3,000 applications throughout the department."

Site Preparation

Phase two of the transition begins at AOR and ends when the site begins migrating or "cutting over" to the NMCI environment. During this phase, the EDS/NMCI Transition Team completes the technology infrastructure build-outs necessary for the operation of the NMCI. This includes furnishing, installing, and testing the NMCI site enterprise and beginning infrastructure work to finalize implementation and migration/cutover plans.

It is important to note that users should not experience any significant differences in the performance of their desktop or network at AOR, since all current systems remain the same and only the responsibility for operating and maintaining the network has shifted.

Not until seat migration or "cutover" will users see a significant change in their computing environment.

Site Transition

During the Site Transition Phase, the site and users will begin migrating from the legacy environment to the NMCI environment.

This is currently scheduled to begin during November. This is when changes will be apparent. Key activities within this phase will include the deployment of new NMCI images on the existing black Dell computers, the migration of data on local workstations and network servers, and the addition of servers and facilities. NMCI Operational Readiness training will be given to users also and the site is migrated to the NMCI infrastructure.

Depending on the legacy infrastructure and environment, users may not notice much difference in operation and functionality – other than perhaps their desktop configuration and the speed of the network.

Once a user has migrated to the NMCI environment, resources are available to provide guidance and information on the new functionality of their NMCI workstation. User guides, reference cards and functionality tips are available to all NMCI users through the NMCI Homeport page. Click on the "Services" tab and access the User Information link.

Additionally, if you would like to review this information before your transition, the information is available at *http://www.nmci-isf.com/user info.htm.*

VIGIL,

representative for the Depot and Air Station. "This will encourage people to ask, 'Hey, if my relationship is not the best that it can be, what can I do to help that relationship?'"

When relationships experience trauma through abuse, FAP provides information and avenues for addressing the issue, as well as support to the individuals involved. Once an incident is reported, volunteers, who operate on a 24-hour, on-call basis, come to the aid of victims of abuse as advocates.

"MCCS offers all the support a family can need, especially when tied in with a local community support program," said Abney. "In the same way that we reach out to the community, local services can help support Marines and their families."

Many factors can lead to abuse in relationships. While FAP operates mostly after-the-fact, many other outlets available through the many divisions of MCCS-SC Personal Services provide steps to take towards prevention of domestic violence.

Individual, Marriage and Family Counseling, Substance Abuse Counseling, Exceptional Family Member Program, Personal Financial Management, Drug Demand Reduction and New Parent Support Program can help couples, individuals and families identify problems and help find solutions.

"Our job is to help the military commands become mission ready," said Abney. "By getting out here and educating our military members early and addressing this issue, we help ensure that they are at the highest level of mission capability."

To find out more information, contact Personal Services at 228-2883 or come by Bldg. 17. To speak to Abney, call 228-3523. To contact FAP, call 228-2044. To reach the CODA 24-hour crisis hotline, call toll-free at 1-800-868-2632.

Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald

City and state officials sit with Col. Harmon A. Stockwell, commanding officer, MCAS Beaufort, and Col. Michael A. Malachowsky, Chief of Staff, Parris Island, as they listen to the reading of names of domestic violence victims at the Fifth Annual Candlelight Vigil for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Beaufort Waterfront Park Monday.

Brothers become Marines

STAFF SGT. JEFF
MIDDLETON

MPA, RS NEW ORLEANS

As every Marine will say, the Corps is a family. Its members earn a place in the family by completing recruit training and its membership is permanent. The title and honor of being a Marine are in the heart and mind forever.

Two sets of brothers recently became part of this family. One of the brothers has been in the Corps for a year, while the other three recently completed recruit training. These three new Marines were also in the same platoon at recruit training.

The story began one year ago when Clint Robinson, 18, made the decision to join the Marine Corps.

"I wanted to better my life," said Clint. "I wanted to do something different than what everyone does here in Natchez [Miss.]. I wanted to get out and see the world and serve my country at the same time."

When Clint returned from recruit training, his identical twin brother, Blain, saw the difference.

"He influenced me to join the Marine Corps indirectly," said Blain. "I was thinking about it after he left but after I saw how much it changed him, my decision was made. The difference was incredible. He had a different attitude, the way he carried himself, the way he did things, the way he handled things and the respect he got in his uniform … I wanted that."

A close friend of Clint (and Blain) from high school was Lee Blanton, 19. Lee was also impressed with the difference he saw in Clint and made the decision to join the Corps' ranks.

Lee also has an older brother, Randy, 23, who wanted to be part of the family.

"I wanted to learn some leadership skills," said Randy.

"My brother and I were eating dinner one night," said Lee. "I made the comment that I thought everyone should serve some time in the military. My brother made the comment that he would join if I did. And that was how we made our decision to join the Marine Corps."

Lee and Randy went to recruit training on the buddy program. But by sheer coincidence, they were also in the same platoon as Blain.

The brothers' senior drill instructor was Staff Sgt. Cory W. Signorelli, and their drill instructors were Sgt. Vurgos and Sgt. Daniel S. Perry. The three brothers had the same senior drill instructor as Clint when he went through recruit training.

"The drill instructors have a job that civilians do not understand," said Lee. "They think all they do is yell and get upset, but they do a lot more than that. They spend three months with us and do things like build confidence and leadership abilities."

"At first my dad was shocked," said Randy, describing when he told his parents what he was going to do. "But he was also very proud of my decision to serve my country. My mom cried and sounded like she was going to have a heart attack."

"My mom did not like it and was very rude to Staff Sergeant [Brett] Marks (canvassing recruiter for Permanent Contact Station Natchez)," said Clint. "Now she has completely changed and she loves him. Our parents have really gone all out. They had the Proud Parent of a Marine sticker but couldn't find one that said Proud Parent of Marines so they had them custom made. They also have a five-foot American flag and the Marine Corps flag flying outside the house now. They are really pumped about what the Marine Corps did for us."

The experience was life changing, according to the brothers.

"The Marine Corps is really a small family," said Blain. "When you join its ranks you are joining a family that you'll be a part of for the rest of your life. I'm glad I can share this bond with my brother and my friends. It will be something we will carry with us forever. We were really good friends before but now we are a lot closer."

"When you walk across that parade deck, it is a feeling that I cannot describe," said Randy. "Recruit training is tough, but worth it. It was the biggest reward of my life to receive that Eagle, Globe and Anchor."

These four Marines were in Natchez after the recent graduation visiting family and catching up with each other. For Clint, the accounts of the three new Marines have brought back a lot of memories of when he first completed recruit training.

Currently, Lance Cpl. Clint Robinson is stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Pvt. Blain Robinson is in Aviation Supply School in Meridian, Miss., and PFCs Randy and Lee Blanton are both at Fort Sill, Okla., in Artillery School.

District News